

CLAIMS

1. A method of operating an electronic mail (email) system including the steps of:
 - (e) enabling a sender to compose an email and initiate a send operation to one or more recipients in respect of the email;
 - (f) intercepting the email sent by the sender;
 - (g) presenting the email to the sender in such a way that the sender can amend the email; and
 - (h) in response to a specified triggering event dependent on satisfaction of the senders transmission criteria, transmitting the email to the one or more recipients.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the triggering event includes a sender input.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the triggering event corresponds to a user not aborting the transmission of the email within a specified delay period, whereupon at the end of the delay period, the email is automatically sent to the recipient(s) with no intervention.
4. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the triggering event corresponds to the sender opening the email and taking no action, then closing the email, whereupon the email is immediately sent to the recipient(s) with no further intervention.
5. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the triggering event corresponds to the sender proactively confirming that the email should be sent, whereupon the email is immediately transmitted to the recipient(s) with no intervention.

6. A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein either the sender specifies the delay period or it may be globally set.
7. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 claim wherein the transmission step includes additional intervening steps such as spooling the email or handling the email by mail-servers or any other operations as may be required by the particular email implementation or system architecture.
8. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein following step (c) in claim 1, the sender amends the email and initiates a send operation in accordance with either step (b) in claim 1 whereupon the email is again subjected to the transmission criteria, or the email is processed in accordance with step (d) in claim 1 where the email is immediately transmitted to the recipient(s) with no further intervention.
9. A method as claimed in claim 1 including the step of checking whether the sender is listed as a recipient of the email and if the sender is identified as a co-recipient of the email, the email is processed in accordance with step (c) above, otherwise the email is transmitted immediately to the one or more recipients.
10. A computer or network of computers adapted to operate in accordance with the method of any one of claims 1 to 9.
11. Computer readable media adapted to operate a computer or network of computers in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 9.
12. A method of handling electronic mail (email) including the steps of:
 - intercepting an email composed and sent by a sender to one or more recipients;
 - presenting the email to the sender, in editable form, for approval; and
 - following approval, transmitting the email to the one or more recipients.

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